- the recreation department works with communities, governments and service agencies to co-ordinate local activity programs
- the Communications department publishes a weekly Newsletter to keep the membership informed of the Association's activities.
- a News Release and information package service is provided to various agencies
- the day-to-day budgetary and administrative operations are carried out by the elected Executive and accounting department

THE STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

The Metis Association utilizes two resources to conduct their business. First of all, there are those representatives and workers who are in the field and thereby in direct contact with the Metis people in their communities and then there are those employees who work from a centralized head office located in Edmonton, Alberta.

Field Operations: The province of Alberta is divided into six zones. From the six zones, two Board of Directors are elected to represent the Metis people at the Association Board meetings. In addition to the two Board members from each of the six zones, a Metis Association field worker is hired by the organization to work with the people by assisting communities to initiate, plan and to organize their various projects.

Office Operations: From the Metis Association's head office in Edmonton, Alberta, a number of workers, with specialized interests and skills, conduct the Association's business. The following is a list of the various offices and departments that operate from Edmonton:

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

President's Secretary

VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Vice-President's Secretary

ACCOUNTANT'S OFFICE

Accountant's Assistant

RECEPTIONIST

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

DIVISION OF HOUSING SERVICES

Emergency Trailer Program

Emergency Repair Program

Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program

Information and Support Services

The address of the Metis Association of Alberta's head office is located at:

12750 - 127 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5L 1A5

The telephone number is:

(403) 452-9550

Louis Riel

A great Metis Leader
He fought and died for a
Just Society

Important events in the life of Louis Riel: (some are approximate dates)

NOVEMBER 1869 - established Convention of people of Rupert's Land

DECEMBER 1869 - made President of Provisional government

OCTOBER 1873 - elected to Parliament

APRIL 1874 - expelled from the House

SEPTEMBER 1874 - re-elected to Parliament

FEBRUARY 1875 - declared an outlaw and escaped to the United States

JUNE 1884 - recalled to Canada to gain redress for the Metis

MARCH 1885 - Battle of Duck Lake

APRIL 1885 - Battle of Fish Creek

MAY 1885 - Battle of Batoche

JULY 1885 - Tried for Treason

NOVEMBER 1885 - Hanged for Treason

Red River Cart

THE METIS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

Louis Riel

A great Metis Leader
He fought and died for a
Just Society

POLAR
PAM
187

POLARPAM

38749

Metis Assoc. of Alta.

WHAT IS THE METIS ASSOCIATION?

It is an organization registered under the Society's Act. The membership consists of Metis, Non-Status Indians and/or persons of mixed Indian blood. There are approximately 30,000 Metis in the province of Alberta that the Association represents. The Association encourages and gives moral support to all other Native organizations for the progress and development of all people of Native ancestry.

BRIEF HISTORY OF METIS AND THE ASSOCIATION

Louis Riel, a great Metis leader had created the first legislative Council which was known as the Manitoba Provisional Government of 1870 at Ft. Garry, Manitoba. He had discouraged any movement that would link any part of the western part of Canada to the United States. The Canadian Government, however, made changes which later saw the Metis Nation and the Manitoba Provisional Government dissolved. The Metis then moved west into Saskatchewan and eventually made their stand. The Riel Rebellions of the 1880's, as they are now known, witnessed the defeat of the Metis people. As well, the spirit of the Metis Nation was crushed for decades to come.

To attain land has always been a problem for the Metis. In the 1870's and 1880's, the Canadian Government issued land scripts, however, land speculators took up most of the land and by 1920, the Metis people were again without land. The Metis began squatting on road allowances and living on the edge of townsites and villages where they can still be found today.

In the late 1920's, the Metis Association of Alberta was started through the efforts of a Metis school teacher, Mr. Joe Dion. Through the dedicated work of this man, who was also the First President of the Metis Association and through his Executive, the eight Metis Settlements of Alberta were established. This accomplishment however, solved only some of the problems for a small number of Metis who lived in the settlement areas. From 1966 to the present time, the Metis Association has expanded its work to cover the Metis communities outside the Metis Settlements. There are now 85 Local Associations affiliated with the Metis Association. These Locals conduct their own business but politically work within the framework of the Provincial Metis Organization.

HOW THE ASSOCIATION IS GOVERNED

The Metis Association is governed by the President, Vice-President and two Board Members from each of the six zones within Alberta. There is a total of fourteen officers. The Board of Directors elect, from within their Board, a Secretary and Treasurer. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer make up the Executive of the Board and of the Association. The President, Vice-President and six of the 12 Board members serve two year terms. The other six Board members are elected at the Annual Assembly of the Association which is held once a year. Both the President's and Vice-President's positions are full-time salaried positions.

SOME OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

- to coordinate the efforts of the Metis people for promoting their interests through collective action
- to contribute to the understanding of Metis history, accomplishments and contributions to Canadian Society
- to promote a Canadian Native Day and to honour great Metis and Indian leaders of Canada
- to make representations to federal, provincial or municipal Governments regarding all legislation that affects the interests of the Metis people
- to promote and to encourage the beliefs of the Metis people
- to procure the delivery of lectures on social, educational, political, economic and other subjects
- to hire, engage or otherwise secure the services of persons or firms for the promotion and carrying out of any of the objects of the Association
- to cooperate with other organizations whose objects are altogether or in part, similar to those of the Association
- to engage in educational activities to stimulate interest in and appreciation of the needs and problems of the Native people of Alberta, and of their cultural traditions, folklore, arts and crafts
- to assist Metis people in smaller communities to establish local leadership and organizations

SINCE 1928 . . .

- the Metis Association of Alberta has established eight Metis Settlements
- secured funds for the purpose of hiring native workers to work with Metis people to organize and develop socially, politically and economically
- implemented leadership training for the purposes of finding an identity, gaining pride and developing community leaders
- negotiated with the Alberta Government to implement a Hot Lunch Program for rural schools and to implement the Student Bursary Program to provide funds for students entering the institutions of higher education
- organized the Alberta Native Education Foundation
- initiated an employment center to work with Government and private enterprise for the employment of Metis workers
- was instrumental in developing a national housing policy to upgrade and/or replace present houses
- instrumental in forming the Native Council of Canada
- combined efforts with the Treaty Indians to assist the Native Firefighters of Alberta to form an Association and to upgrade their general working conditions
- conducted a three-month preliminary Land Claims Research Project
- conducted a survey to determine the economic needs and opportunities available to Metis people along the Alcan Pipeline route

PRESENT PROGRAMS

- the Metis Association operates a Division of Housing Services with four departments. The four departments are (1) Emergency Trailer Program to meet immediate housing needs in such cases as fires. The program is administered by the Alberta government. (2) Emergency Repair Program that repairs houses until they can be replaced. (3) Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program to upgrade houses that are structurally sound to last for a minimum of 15 years. (4) Information and Support Services which is an information service on federal and provincial housing programs. Acts as a resource for the Metis Association's Housing Division